

The Chancellor Kensey Johns House
New Castle, Delaware
New Castle Co.

HAB 116
HABS No. 9-6
HABS
DEL
NEWCA
5

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 9

Historic American Buildings Survey
Albert Kruse, District Officer
Old Town Hall, Wilmington, Del.

Chancellor Kensey Johns House
Newcastle, Newcastle County
Delaware

Owner: Dr. Lewis Booker.

Date of Erection: 1790.

Architect: No record.

Builder: George Van Sandt and Joseph Baldwin.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two, and basement.

Materials of Construction: Brick.

Other Existing Records: See text.¹

Additional Data: See following pages.

¹ See Hammond, J.M., Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware, p.255, and illustration; Bennett, G.F., Early Architecture of Delaware, pp. 95-98, 188-191; White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs, 1926, no. xii.

THE CHANCELLOR KENSEY JOHNS HOUSE
New Castle, Delaware

This house was built in 1790 by local craftsmen George Van Sandt and Joseph Baldwin for Chancellor Kensey Johns at the cost of "945" 16' 5 shillings". The turned banisters and newel posts were made by Sampson Barnette while Garrett Lawrence provided the marble fireplace pieces, the steps, platforms and plinths. This information we find in the itemized bills and terms of agreement now held by the present owner.

The Johns house descended to Kensey Johns' daughter Nancy, then by inheritance to the Misses Nancy and Fidelia Stockton, then to their niece, Miss Elizabeth Moore who rented it from 1913-1924 to Dr. Lewis Booker. He purchased it in 1924 and is the present occupant.

The house is in excellent condition and contains the original brass latches and key plates except for two which, when found to match those at Mt. Vernon, were given to Mt. Vernon when it was restored in 1910.

Measured drawings of parts of this house are published in the White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs, Vol. 12 #1, and George F. Bennett's Early Architecture of Delaware, Historical Press, 1932.

Dorothy A. Mendenhall

Approved

Albert Kruse

Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.